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CABO SAN LUCAS, BAJA CALIFORNIA...

THIS IS FAR ENOUGH, ARNIE!

BUT I'M OKAY NOW, JUSTICE! THREE MONTHS INNA HOSPITAL, I'M AS GOOD AS NEW!

NEW ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH AGAINST THE PEOPLE WE'RE TRACKING!

LISTEN TO MILADY, ARNIE! SHE'S ABSORBED A PART OF MY MASICK-- I'M--

JUSTICE

--AND THERE'S STILL NO WRIT THAT WE'LL COME BACK TO YOU ALIVE!

DAD

1 NOV 1986 --
EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS
THE DAY OF THE DEAD

STEVE ENGLEHART — STORY
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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO JUSTICE, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

YOU LISTEN TA ME! I DROVE YA FROM NEW YORK TA OKLAHOMA, AN' L.A. TO THE TIP O' BAJA! I GOTTA IN-VESTMENT HERE!

YOU'VE BEEN PAID TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!

THAT AIN'T WHAT I MEAN!

IT STARTED OUT AS A FARE, BUT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH SINCE! WHEN IT COMES TO DAMON CONQUEST, I'M RIGHT IN THERE BESIDE YA!

¿HABLAS ESPAÑOL?

HUH? SURE I SPEAK SPANISH -- WE GOT PORTERICANS IN NEW YORK!

¿PERO HABLAS ESPAÑOL COMO UN MEXICANO, SIN ACCENTO, PARA QUE PUEDAS MOVER EN ESTE PAÍS SIN DIFICULTAD?

SOMETHIN' ABOUT "DIFFICULTY"-?

HE ASKED IF YOU CAN SPEAK LIKE A NATIVE!

HE CAN-- HE IMMERSED NIMSELF IN SPANISH THIS PAST MONTH!

Y YO HABLO BASTANTE BIEN---

OKAY, BECKY, OKAY-- YOU GUYS'RE SCHOLARS! SIGN UP FOR NYU!

I'LL STAY HERE--!

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU, ARNIE -- OR ANYONE ELSE! I'VE LOST HOYT PITTMAN AND EVERYONE AT ROSIE'S DINER -- DAMON PLAYS AND KEEPS! *

*JUSTICE #3.

"PLAYS FOR KEEPS," MR. SCHOLAR! YOU SHOULD'A PUT IN THAT MONTH LEARNIN' ENGLISH!

SO GO ALREADY! BUT WAITIN' TIME'S TEN BUCKS AN HOUR!

TAKE CARE, ARNIE!

FROM NOW ON... HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL!

<LOOK AT THE COSTUMES--THE DECORATIONS--! THE LATIN AMERICAN HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL!

<YOU'LL SEE HERE IN TOWN, JUSS--NOT WHERE THE GRINGOS ARE, ON THE BEACH!

<THAT'S WHERE THE PHONE DANON WAS TALKING ON WAS LOCATED!>*

* LAST ISSUE.

<I STILL GET THE SHAKES THINKING ABOUT YOU BEING THROWN FROM THIS DIMENSION TO YOURS, AND BACK AGAIN!>

<TWICE! CLEARLY, THE GREEN FORCE THE WIZARDS OF THE WINTERLANDS CREATED DOESN'T KILL ME AS IT DOES OTHERS--IT SENDS ME WHEREVER I'M NOT, INSTEAD--

<--AND QUITE POSSIBLY, THE REACTION BECOMES MORE EXTREME EVERY TIME I'M HIT! I DON'T KNOW YET!>

<BUT I'VE GOT MY MEMORY BACK NOW! I KNOW ABOUT THE WAR THE WIZARDS ARE WAGING WITH THE GREEN FORCE AGAINST MY PEOPLE!--

<--AND I KNOW IT'S DERIVED HERE ON EARTH BY THE WIZARD CONQUEST AND THE ONE HE WAS REPORTING TO ON THE TELEPHONE--

<-- THE ONE HE CALLED "DAD"!>

IT IS HANDY HAVING A FRIEND IN THE AMERICAN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO RUN PHONE TRACES, ISN'T IT?>

<VERY HANDY! BUT YOU KNOW IT'S THE BEAUTY I SAW IN YOU THAT DREW ME TO YOU, BECKY--

<--THE BEAUTY WHICH LIES DEEP BENEATH YOUR STATUS OR YOUR SKIN!>

<YOU KNOW ABOUT BLACK SKINS AND WHITE SKINS NOW?>

<I'VE BEEN HERE THIRTEEN WEEKS! ONE PICKS IT UP!>

<THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I EVER WENT FOR A WHITE GUY--LET ALONE AN ALIEN WHITE GUY--!>

<FUNNY HOW I DON'T CARE EITHER--->

<OKAY, HANDS ABOVE YOUR HEADS, SUCKERS!>

‹WHAT THE HECK--? COPS!›
‹WHAT ARE WE ACCUSED OF OFFICER?›
‹DON'T GET SMART WITH ME, PAL! DRUG SMUGGLING'S BAD ENOUGH, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO GET SMART WITH ME!›

‹EDWIN--?›
THE FALSE NAME SHE GAVE ME FOR "UNDERCOVER WORK"-- THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO RUNS HER JUSTICE DEPARTMENT!
SHE THINKS IT'S FUNNY FOR SOME REASON!
BUT WHAT SHE WANTS IS MY READING OF THESE MEN'S AURAS!

‹THEY ARE POLICEMEN, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN BRIBED!›
‹RESISTING ARREST, HUH?›

‹I AM!›
›ARRRGH!‹
SOOOMM

UH!
BLASTED SWORD-HAND DOESN'T FUNCTION RELIABLY ANY MORE!
‹YOUR MOTHER---›

KRAK
BUT BECKY DOES!

WHEEEET

POLICE WHISTLE! SOMEBODY WAS WATCHING US!

SHE'S RETURNED TO ENGLISH IN HER EXCITEMENT!

RUN!

<PARDON!>

ENE

HOLD!

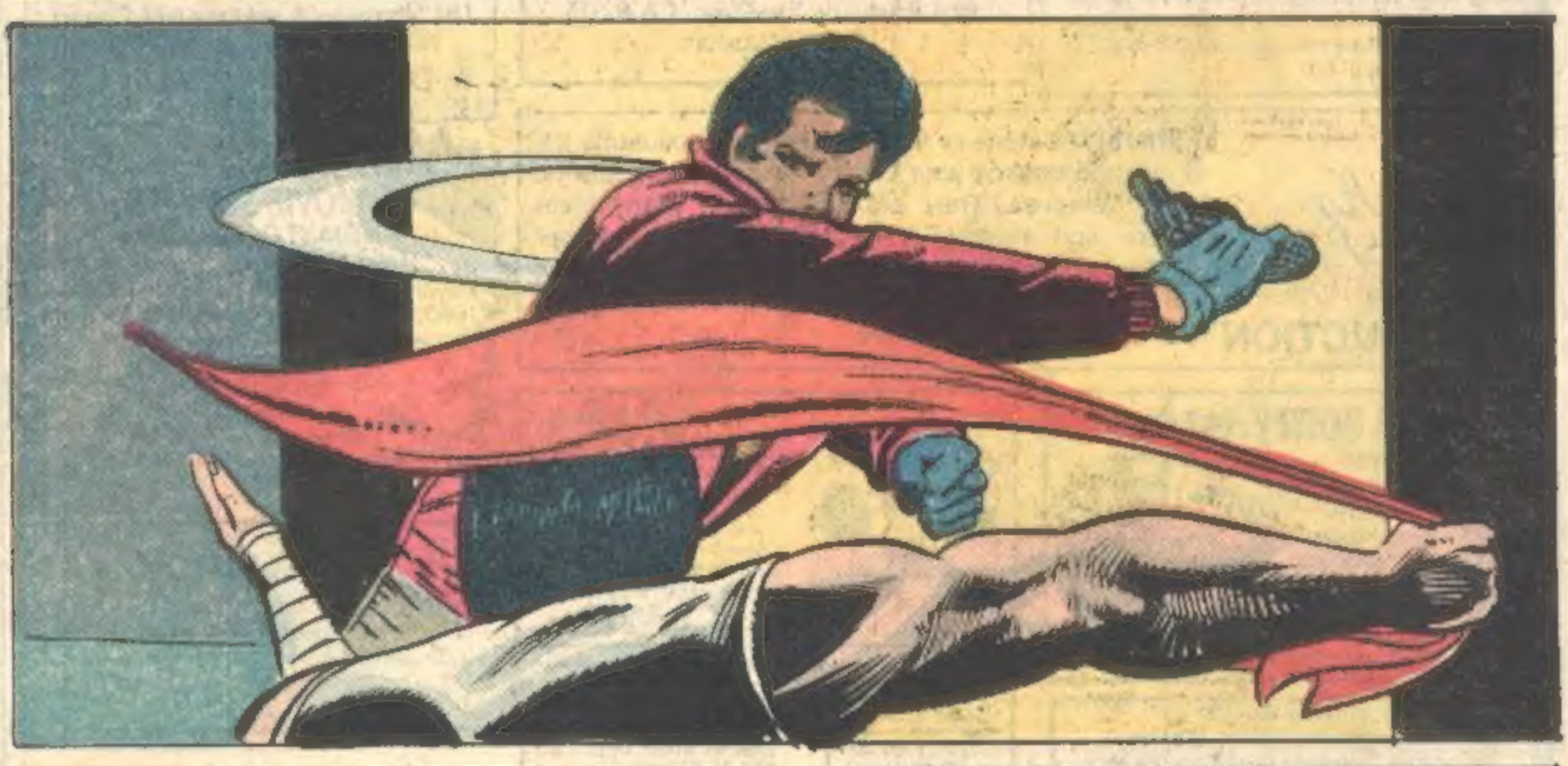
WHAT--?

THE JAPANESE WHO SLAUGHTERED EVERYONE AT ROSIE'S, AND PITT!

"DAD" HAS MULTIPLE DEFENDERS NEAR HIS LAIR, AND THIS ONE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO LEAVE AT LARGE!

MMMF!

WOK



TIK

BLOK

PLUK

PUNT

≠IKKH!≠

I AM TATTOO! YOU FIGHT BETTER THAN PITTMAN, BUT LIKE HIM YOU FALL TO ME!

LIKE HIM, YOU RECEIVE ONE OF THE TATTOOS GIVEN ME BY "DAD"--

-- ONE WHICH WILL ENTER YOUR SOUL AND TAKE CONTROL!

PITTMAN BECAME A KILLER FOR ME, AND YOU WILL BECOME--

GET OFF!

TUK

THE TATTOO COULDN'T ENTER YOU!

I'M AS SURPRISED AS YOU, NINJA--

TICO

--BUT HER SOUL IS TOO PURE FOR YOUR PURPOSES, AND IT'S MINGLED WITH MINE!

WUFF!

WUMP

RUNNING -- FASTER THAN I CAN!

HAND WORKED, BUT HE WAS TOO NIMBLE! WE WON'T CATCH HIM THIS TIME!

HE--HE WANTED TO TURN ME AGAINST YOU, LIKE HE DID PITT! IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED SO QUICKLY--WITH MAGICK--!

IF I WERE ANYONE ELSE--!

A NORMAL REACTION, I D SAY--!

UHHLLL--!

NOT--THE IMAGE THE--JUSTICE DEPARTMENT LIKES TO PROJECT--!

YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING YOUR UNIVERSE NEVER PREPARED YOU FOR! UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU'RE DOING REMARKABLY WELL!

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I ONLY GIVE YOU A HUG--!

I'LL UNDERSTAND--!

JUSS... WHAT DOES IT MEAN, THAT YOUR SOUL AND MINE ARE MINGLED?

IT MEANS WE'VE FORGED A BOND, YOU AND I--A BOND ON AN ETHEREAL LEVEL, SO THAT WE FEEL EACH OTHER'S ESSENCES--

--SO THAT WE KNOW EACH OTHER, FAR BEYOND WHAT WE'VE [illegible] ABOUT EACH OTHER--

--SO THAT WE DREW FROM EACH OTHER'S STRENGTHS!

AND THAT I .. ACCEPT YOU, EVEN THOUGH SO MUCH OF YOU IS SO STRANGE...!

IN MANY WAYS, YOU'RE JUST AS STRANGE TO ME!

SOUNDS LIKE LOVE...!

..

LIKE THE VERY BEST OF LOVE!

BECKY CHAMBERS BUYS A COCA-COLA IN A CANTINA TO RINSE HER MOUTH! THEN SHE AND JUSTICE TAKE A TAXI TO THE BEACH!

SHE HAS THE ADDRESS THEY WANT, ALL GETTING DIRECTIONS TAKES WORK--

-- A LOT OF WORK--

-- BUT JUSTICE CAN READ THE FEAR AND EVASION IN THE AURAS HE FACES, SO HE MAKES ALLOWANCES--

-- AND AS THEY CLOSE IN, EVEN BECKY CAN FEEL SOMETHING COLD, AND FURIOUS -- AND AWASH IN AGONY--!

DAMON CONQUEST'S AURA! HIS BUILDING IN LOS ANGELES WAS INSULATED TO MASK ITS POWER, BUT HERE, ANYONE SUFFICIENTLY SENSITIVE CAN PICK IT OUT!

THERE IT IS-- DAD'S ESTATE!

I'D SAY IT'D BE TOUGH TO GET IN-- UNLESS, OF COURSE, HE JUST ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET LIKE DAMON DID--

--BUT THE WAY THAT WORKED OUT, I DOUBT DAD WILL TRY IT A SECOND TIME--

UMMM!

<YOU THERE!>

<OPEN UP!>

<WHAT? ARE YOU NUTS?>

<I'M JUSTICE!>

DICE QUE ES *JUSTICIO*-- SÍ OJOS *ROJOS*-- PELO *BLANCO*-- UNA *NEGRA*--

¿ COMO SÉ *YO*, HOMBRE ? ¡BUENO, PERO LA *RESPONSIBILIDAD* NO ES *MÍA!* ¡ SI USTED ME *ORDENA*--

¡ OH--.

¡ PAPÁ--!

¡ ... PASEN POR FAVOR !

DAD *KNOWS* BY NOW, I'M COMING IN *ONE* WAY OR ANOTHER !

HELLO, DAMON !

JUSTICE--!

YOU MUST BE DAD--!

EASY, BECKY!

DAD HAS NO AURA--! LIKE THE HOUNDS IN THE CORNER!* BUT THEIR LACK IS PALPABLE-- I CAN AT LEAST FEEL THEIR HUNGER--!

*WE MET SOME IN JUSTICE #2.

DAD IS A COMPLETE CYPHER!

YOU'RE RIGHT, JUSTICE-- DAMON'S DECISION TO ADMIT YOU WAS A FAILURE BECAUSE HE FAILED TO KILL YOU! BUT HE CAME CLOSE, THAT SON OF MINE!

WE'VE ALL TRIED TO KILL YOU NOW, AND ALL FAILED! YOU REALLY MUST BE THE FINEST JUSTICE WARRIOR!

IT GIVES ME A NEW IDEA!

WHAT? ASK ME TO JOIN YOU?

EXACTLY!

I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D UNDERSTAND JUSTICES!

OH, BUT I DO-- AND I'M PREPARED TO SURPASS MY SON IF YOU ACT TRUE TO TYPE AND KILL YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL--

-- BUT I UNDERSTAND THE CONTAMINATION IMPARTED BY LIVING ON EARTH, AS WELL!

HOW IS YOUR HAND, BY THE WAY--?

THE ALIEN AIR YOU BREATHED-- THE ALIEN FOOD AND DRINK-- THEY FILLED YOUR AURA WITH ALIEN ENERGIES--
--AND WHEN YOU DREW UPON YOUR AURA TO FORM YOUR HAND, YOU CREATED SOMETHING...IMPURE!
MY HAND--?
I COULD SHOW YOU HOW IT IS!
NO DOUBT.' BUT KILLING A NAKED MAN IN A HOT TUB, WHO'S MADE NOT A SINGLE THREATENING GESTURE-- YOU'D SHOW US YOUR CONTAMINATION SO CLEARLY!
IF THIS IS SUPPOSED TO THROW ME OFF-BALANCE, YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THAT A JUSTICE IS BALANCE!
JUSTICE, I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT! I'M FROM THE GLADE, MYSELF--
--AND I'M CONTAMINATED!
IN FACT, I WAS THE FIRST ONE EVER TO COME ACROSS!' THAT'S HOW I LEARNED THAT THE AURAS OF EARTHFOLK COULD BE TAPPED FOR USE ON OUR SIDE!
I LIVED A VIRTUOUS LIFE HERE FOR MANY MONTHS, AS YOU WISH TO, BUT IF YOU EAT AND BREATHE, YOU CHANGE! THERE'S NO WAY TO AVOID IT.'
SO I CONTACTED THE WINTER WIZARDS AND OPENED THE CHANNEL OF POWER.' THEY SENT ME MEN LIKE DAMON, AND THE WOUNDS--
--I RECRUITED MEN LIKE TATTOO, AND PROVIDED FOR HIS ENHANCEMENTS--
--I RECRUITED MEN LIKE MARTY ROTH, AND PROVIDED MYSELF WITH VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED RESOURCES--
--AND MEN LIKE MARTY ROTH RAN NETWORKS THAT REACHED ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE STREETS--
--AND SO I HEARD EVERY-THING--AND I ACTED ON EVERYTHING--
AND I BECAME THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH!

IF MY FATE IS SO INEVITABLE, I HAVE JUST TWO QUESTIONS! FIRST, WHY TRY TO HAVE ME KILLED?

YOU'LL BE IN MY WAY UNTIL YOU REFORM!

THAT IS CERTAIN! BUT THEN, IF I DO 'REFORM'... WON'T I BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ON EARTH?

BE MY GUEST!

IN FACT, JUSTICE BEGIN RIGHT NOW!

BECAUSE IF YOU CHOOSE OTHERWISE, I WILL KILL YOU--

-- AND I WON'T USE THE GREEN FORCE THAT SENDS YOU HOME INSTEAD!

CAN'T TELL IF HE'S LYING, WITHOUT HIS AURA--!

CAN'T READ THE HOUNDS EITHER!

TATTOO HAS AN AURA, BUT HE CAN MASK IT--!*

* AS HE DID IN ROSIE'S DINER IN J #3.

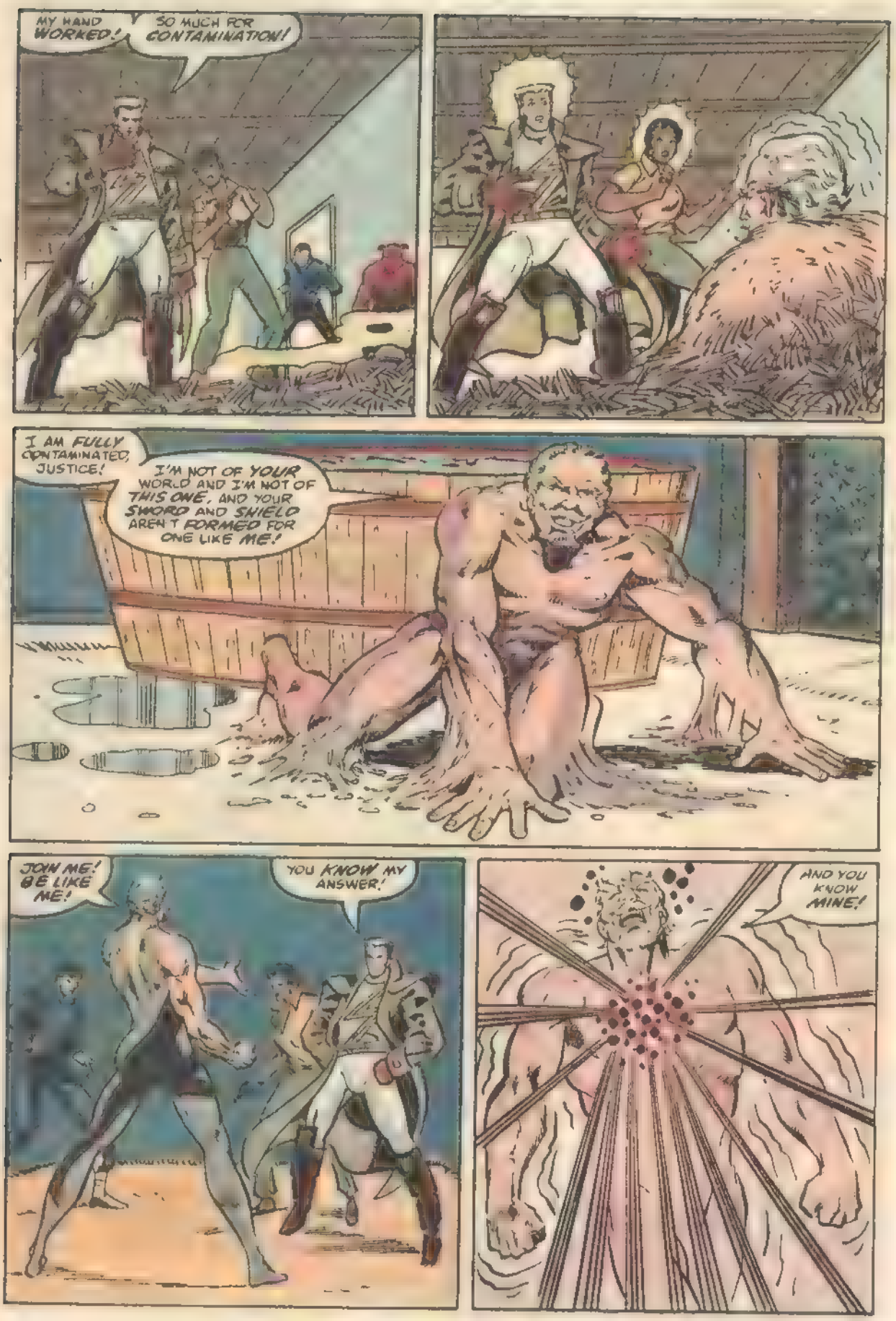
BUT DAMON--!

DAMON'S AURA FEELS LIKE A FOREST FIRE ON MY BACK--

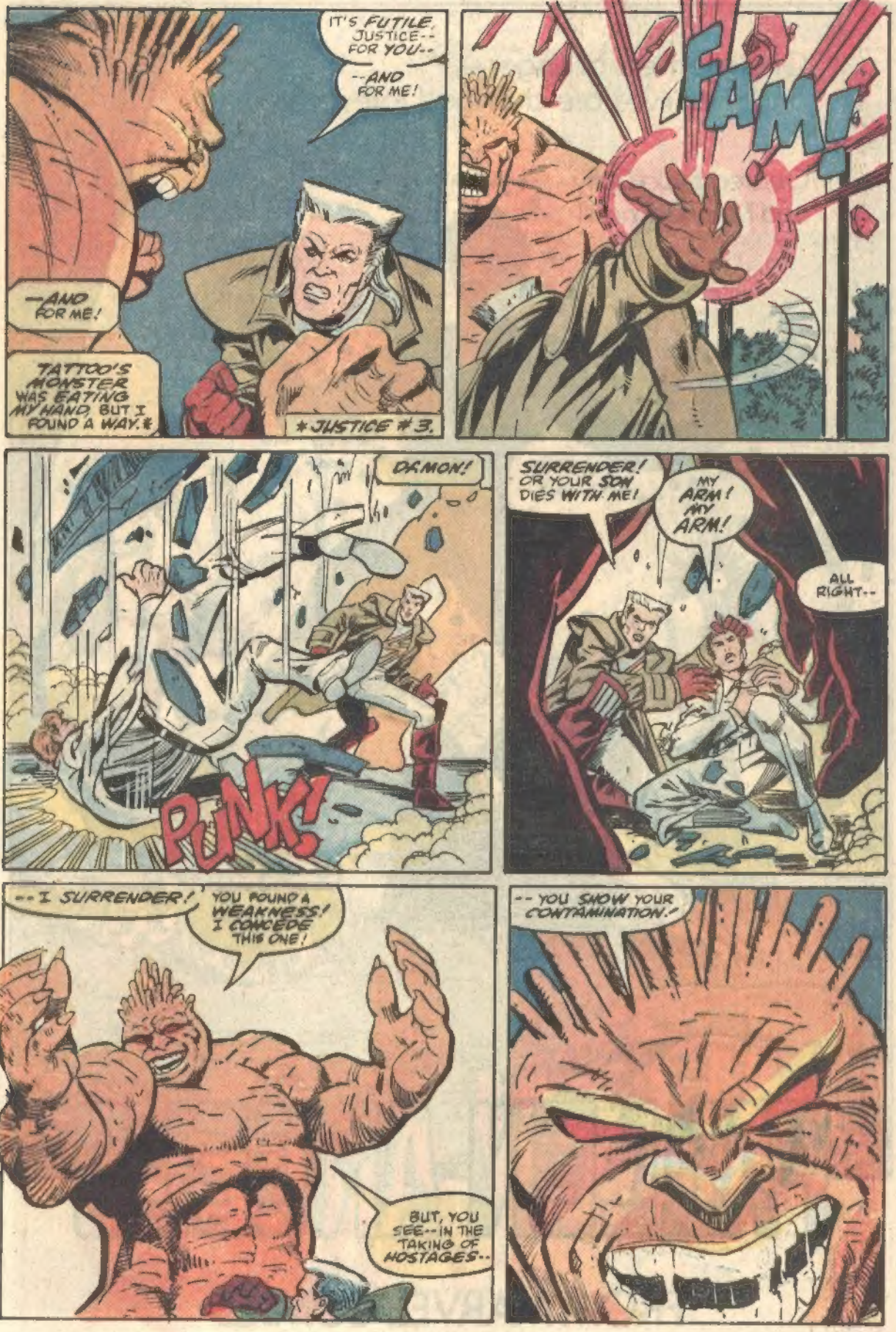
-- AND IT SAYS DAD'S PLAYING SOME SORT OF GAME!

BECKY--!

SHOOM
FOR JUSTICE!!
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK


MY HAND WORKED!
SO MUCH FOR CONTAMINATION!
I AM FULLY CONTAMINATED, JUSTICE!
I'M NOT OF YOUR WORLD AND I'M NOT OF THIS ONE, AND YOUR SWORD AND SHIELD AREN'T FORMED FOR ONE LIKE ME!
JOIN ME! BE LIKE ME!
YOU KNOW MY ANSWER!
AND YOU KNOW MINE!

JUSS!
STAY BACK, MILADY!
NUTS!
JUSS! JUSS!!
STAY-- BACK
THIS IS-- BEYOND YOU--!
FOOM
YOU'RE THE BEST JUSTICE-WARRIOR BUT YOU'VE REACHED TOO HIGH THIS TIME!
YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO CHANGE YOUR MIND!
UNNNH!


IT'S FUTILE, JUSTICE-- FOR YOU--
--AND FOR ME!
--AND FOR ME!
TATTOO'S MONSTER WAS EATING MY HAND, BUT I FOUND A WAY.*
* JUSTICE # 3.
FAM!
DR.MON!
PUNK!
SURRENDER! OR YOUR SON DIES WITH ME!
MY ARM! MY ARM!
ALL RIGHT--
--I SURRENDER!
YOU FOUND A WEAKNESS! I CONCEDE THIS ONE!
BUT, YOU SEE--IN THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES--
--YOU SHOW YOUR CONTAMINATION!-

FORGET THIS FANTASY, WIZARD! I WAS MERELY CLEAR-EYED ABOUT THE FULFILLMENT OF MY CALLING--
--WHICH IS THE DETERMENT OF EVIL LIKE YOURS!
THAT'S WHAT I SAID, AT YOUR STAGE!
I AM NOT YOU!
UNTIL THE NIGHT YOU ARE, THEN!
JUSS!!
BECKY!
HERE'S YOUR GREEN GATEWAY, JUSTICE-WARRIOR--
BUT IT'S FOR USSSSS
SOOM!
JUSSSSSS
JUST USSSSSS
HE'S GOT DAMON!

WUNK!
GONE! ALL OF THEM, GONE WITH BECKY!
SHE'S ON THE FAR SIDE WITH THEM -- BUT THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET THERE IS THROUGH THE ENERGY THEY CONTROL --
--AND THEY'RE ALL GONE!
I'M REALLY TRAPPED THIS TIME!
BECKY!
BECKY!!
SOMEWHERE THE HEAT OF MEXICO IS BUT A FANTASY...
...SOMEWHERE THE ICE IS ALL...
WHEN SHE AWAKENS, HER MEMORY WILL BE DISTORTED, AS THE WARRIOR'S WAS!
I CAN PUT THAT TO VERY GOOD USE...!
NEXT: SARA! BE THERE!